

10 (Amended). The method of claim 9, wherein the reference time base is incremented by the predetermined time interval in accordance with the decoded modulo time base of each preceding video object plane, and wherein the time code is an initial value of the reference time base.

~~Please amend claim 11, as follows:~~

β^3 11 (Amended). The method of claim 9, wherein the decoded modulo time base, which is used to mark the reference time base when the video object plane is a plane subsequent to the first plane, is related to one of a preceding intra-coded video object plane (I-VOP) and a preceding predictive-coded video object plane (P-VOP) that is positioned just prior to the video object plane in a display order.

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-11 are allowable over the art of record. As will be discussed below, Applicants amend the claims indicated to be allowable in order to clarify the instant invention.

The claims stand rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. §251 as failing to cover the amendments made by Preliminary Amendment on September 10, 2001, and for not referring to all pending reissue applications of U.S. Patent 6,075,576. By the current amendment, Applicants submit a supplemental declaration that pays particular attention to the concerns raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants

submit that the grounds for the 35 U.S.C. §251 rejection of the reissue declaration no longer exists, and respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objects to the disclosure on the ground that the specification does not make reference to all related reissue applications. By the current amendment, Applicants amend the specification to indicate all reissue applications (whether regular or divisional) that are related to U.S. Patent 6,075,576.

As noted above, the Examiner indicated that claims 9-11 contain allowable subject matter. In order to clarify the instant invention, Applicants herewith amend the claims to improve their clarity and to correct a minor inaccuracy. Specifically, claim 9 is amended to change the phrase "modulo time base data" to ---modulo time base---. The phrase "a value of the decoded time base increment" is changed to ---the decoded time base increment---, in order to conform to the claim language used earlier in claim 9. The term "obtained" in the last paragraph of claim 9 is changed to the more accurate term ---marked---. Finally, the preamble is revised to clarify a minor error therein with respect to the representation of the time base increment.

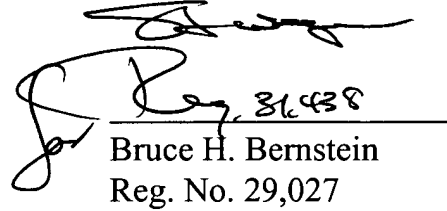
Claims 10 and 11 are amended in a manner to be consistent with the changes made to claim 9.

Applicants submit that the claim revisions do not affect the scope of the claims, and hence, the amended claims remain allowable over the art of record. Further, Applicants

submit that the current amendment and submission of the supplemental declaration address the procedural issues raised by the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass this application to issue.

Should there be any question, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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December 13, 2002
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